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NEWS RELEASE

May 9, 2002

UM ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL LASLOVICH DIES

MISSOULA--

Well-loved University of Montana political science Associate Professor Michael Laslovich died of a heart attack at his Missoula home on Wednesday, May 8. He was 47 years old.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 11, at St. Anthony's Parish in Missoula. Burial in Anaconda will follow.

Laslovich, an **Anaconda** native, was born in Butte on Sept. 6, 1954. He earned a doctorate from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, in 1988, and began teaching in UM's Department of Political Science in September 1990. Specializing in American and Canadian government, he earned a reputation as a rigorous and committed teacher, despite struggling with long-term health problems.

"The man was the most extraordinarily dedicated teacher I've ever met," said political science Chair Jonathan Tomkins. "He was a man of extraordinary courage."

Colleague and Professor Jim Lopach said Laslovich had extremely high standards. "He applied those high standards to himself and to his students," he said. "I'm sure the students would say he was a demanding but highly competent professor."

Laslovich was teaching two classes this semester: an undergraduate course on media and public opinion and a graduate seminar in American government. Tomkins and Professor Forest Grieves will oversee the administration of final exams and grading for the classes.

Laslovich is survived by three sons -- Christopher, 19; Dylan, 17; and Nicholas, 15 -- and his wife, Jennifer, as well as three brothers, a sister and his parents. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Holly.

Laslovich's son Christopher attends UM, as does his nephew, political science major and state Rep. Jesse Laslovich. At age 20, Jesse was the youngest legislator ever when he served in the 2001 Legislature.

"Not only as an uncle but as a mentor, he was someone I could talk to about anything -- about life, about politics, about what classes to take," Jesse said. "He was so helpful and so dedicated to his profession. He was dedicated to his classes, to students, to political science and to The University of Montana, and that's something I'll never forget.

"He was just a phenomenal person and a phenomenal professor," he said.

Montana news reporters frequently called on Laslovich for his insight and perspective on state political issues and elections. Chuck Johnson, chief of the Lee Enterprises State Bureau in Helena, said Laslovich was "really helpful. ... He'd give you really interesting interpretations on why things were happening in the state.

"I had a lot of respect for his political intellect and I really liked him as a person," he said.

"We all liked him a lot. We'll miss him dearly."

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PS
Local, Anaconda Leader
Laslovich.rl